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Provisional summary record of the 47th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 11 December 2006, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Hachani ..... (Tunisia)

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06-65105 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Non-governmental organizations (*continued*)
(E/2006/32, Parts I and II, E/2006/L.24, E/2006/L.25 and E/2006/L.26)

Draft decision: Application for consultative status of the Danish National Association of Gays and Lesbians (E/2006/L.24)

1. After a procedural discussion in which **Mr. Frick** (Germany), **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) and **Ms. Houngbedji** (Benin) took part and representatives of the Secretariat provided clarifications, **the President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision in document E/2006/L.24.

2. **Mr. Frick** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Danish National Association of Gays and Lesbians fully met the criteria established by the Council in resolution 1996/31 for the granting of consultative status. During the consideration of the application by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the Association had provided satisfactory responses to questions and had been prepared to provide further information. No valid reasons had been advanced for rejecting the application. At its substantive session in July, the Council had rejected the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations not to grant consultative status to the Association and had decided not to refer the application back to that Committee. However, since some delegations had wanted to obtain more information on the application, the Council had deferred the issue to the current resumed session. The European Union believed that the Association deserved to be granted special consultative status by the Council and invited all delegations to support draft decision E/2006/L.24.

3. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that his delegation was opposed to all forms of discrimination. As a matter of procedure, however, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should be given the opportunity to fully consider all requests put before it. The requests of a number of delegations in respect of the draft decisions under consideration had not been considered with due diligence or with the necessary impartiality. It was the position of his delegation that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should have an opportunity to reconsider its decision, in order to achieve a judgment based on the criteria embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. In order not to further undermine the credibility of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations his delegation would not participate in any votes held under the item.

4. *The vote was taken by roll-call.*

5. *Tunisia, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.*

In favour:

Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Panama, Poland, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

Abstaining:

Angola, Belize, Costa Rica, Guyana, Haiti, India, Paraguay, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey.

6. *Draft decision E/2004/L.24 was adopted by 23 votes to 16, with 11 abstentions.*

Draft decision: Application for consultative status of the International Lesbian and Gay Association-Europe (E/2006/L.25)

7. **The President** informed the Council that the Russian Federation would not renew its request for the application to be referred back to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. He invited the Council to take action on the draft decision in document E/2006/L.25.

8. **Mr. Frick** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the International Lesbian and Gay Association-Europe met the criteria established by the Council in its resolution 1996/31 for the granting of consultative status. During the consideration of the application by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the Association had provided satisfactory responses to questions and had

been prepared to provide further information. No valid reasons had been advanced for rejecting the application. At its substantive session in July, the Council had rejected the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations not to grant consultative status to the Association and had decided not to refer the application back to that Committee. However, since some delegations had wanted to obtain more information on the application, the Council had deferred the issue to the current resumed session.

9. The Association fought for human rights and against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity at the European level. While it worked to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, people in Europe and elsewhere still faced discrimination and prejudice, including in education, employment and health, on grounds of sexual orientation. The European Union firmly believed that the Association deserved to be granted special consultative status by the Council and invited all delegations to support draft decision E/2006/L.25.

10. *The vote was taken by roll-call.*

11. *The Czech Republic, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.*

In favour:

Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Panama, Poland, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

Abstaining:

Angola, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, India, Paraguay, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey.

12. *Draft decision E/2004/L.25 was adopted by 23 votes to 17, with 10 abstentions.*

Draft decision: Application of the Lesbian and Gay Federation of Germany for consultative status (E/2006/L.26)

13. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision in document E/2006/L.26.

14. **Mr. Frick** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Lesbian and Gay Federation of Germany was a member of the German Human Rights Forum, the umbrella organization of the leading 45 human rights non-governmental organizations in Germany. It had engaged in extensive dialogue with the Government and had been a valuable partner for programmes run by the Federal Ministry of Justice and the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs. It was actively working for non-discrimination at the international level. During the consideration of its application by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the organization had provided fully satisfactory replies to questions and had been prepared to provide further information if required. No valid reasons had been presented by delegations for refusing the application.

15. *The vote was taken by roll-call.*

16. *The Czech Republic, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.*

In favour:

Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Panama, Poland, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

Abstaining:

Angola, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, India, Paraguay, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey.

17. *Draft decision E/2006/L.26 was adopted by 24 votes to 16, with 10 abstentions.*

18. **Mr. Guo** Jiakun (China) expressed concern that the Council had decided to grant consultative status to

those three organizations. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was responsible for considering applications for consultative status. His delegation hoped that the decisions taken by the Council would not affect the future work or credibility of the Committee.

19. **Ms. Houngbedji** (Benin) said the Council should not have taken action on draft decisions that had been drafted several months earlier and it had not respected established procedures. The Council's action had established an unfortunate precedent.

20. **The President** said that the Council had acted in full conformity with established procedures and had made informed decisions that superseded the decisions taken in July 2006.

21. **Mr. Zheglov** (Russian Federation) said that the mandate of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should be respected. In adopting the three draft decisions, the Council had assumed functions beyond its mandate and had undermined the work of the Committee. His delegation hoped that the Council would not undermine the Committee in future.

Draft decision VI contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2006 regular session (E/2006/32 (Part I))

22. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft decision VI contained in document E/2006/32 (Part I).

23. *Draft decision VI was adopted.*

Draft decision V contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2006 resumed session (E/2006/32 (Part II))

24. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft decision V contained in document E/2006/32 (Part II).

25. *Draft decision V was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.